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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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CROP PROSPECTS UNIFORMLY GOOD

"All-crops" prospects as reported June 1 most optimistic, country-wide, in 12 years. Condition map of the country shows almost clean sweep of "good to excellent". Only in Montana, Florida, and Louisiana, and in parts of States adjoining, are "fair" and "poor" spots found.

BIG SPRING WHEAT CROP

Spring wheat, with largest acreage since '38, is expected to be largest crop in 20 years, except in '43 and '44. Estimate is 300.2 million bushels. Compares with average crop of 265.4 million bushels.

ALL WHEAT SECOND LARGEST ON RECORD

Winter wheat estimates, up a little from a month ago, are 1,037 million bushels; 10-year average, 726.6 million. All wheat will total about 1,337 million bushels, second largest wheat crop on record. Record crop in '47 was 1,367 million bushels.

BETTER THAN AVERAGE OATS CROP

Oats crop, better than average -- 1,475 million bushels indicated. Production last year, 1,492 million. Average, 1,234 million.

GOOD CROP OF BARLEY ON SMALL ACREAGE

Barley crop is indicated at 283 million bushels. Production last year was 317 million, 10-year average 305 million bushels. Yield prospects good. Production down on account of relatively small acreage.

RYE ESTIMATE DOWN A LITTLE FROM LAST YEAR

Rye production is estimated at 21.6 million bushels. Production last year was 26.4 million, 10-year average 35.1 million. Yield will be about 13 bushels per acre compared with 12.6 bushels a year ago and the average of 12.1 bushels.

CORN CROP ABOUT ALL PLANTED

Corn had been mostly planted by June 1. Weather has been generally favorable in major corn producing areas and farmers were able to carry out their planting intentions. No official forecast of corn production for the year will be made until July.

HAY AND PASTURES

Hay yields are above average and cutting of 101 million tons is indicated. Pastures are well above average and uniformly good except in such dry areas as Florida, Montana, and California. June 1 condition, 88. This is 6 points higher than year ago and only 1 point below the quarter-century high in June '44.

GOOD PROGRESS IN COTTON AND TOBACCO FIELDS

Cotton was about all planted by June 1. Much of it had been chopped and cultivated and fields were clean, except in wet portions of Oklahoma and northwestern Texas. Tobacco setting was well along except in Virginia, where cool weather retarded plants.

SOYBEANS, SORGHUMS, PEANUTS, RICE AND SUGAR BEETS

Planting of soybeans and sorghums was well advanced on June 1. Good progress was also made with peanut plantings. Sugarbeets were nearly all planted with thinning and blocking in progress. Rice was mostly seeded in good season; some seeding was delayed until late May in dry parts of Louisiana.

CITRUS AVAILABLE DOWN FROM LAST YEAR

Oranges available for use after June 1 totaled only about 25 million boxes. This includes 21 million boxes of California Valencias and 4 million boxes of Florida Valencias. Last season about 30 million boxes were used after June 1.

Grapefruit available after June 1 totaled about 2 million boxes -- 1.2 million California summer, and .8 million Florida. Last season about 4.5 million boxes were used after June 1.

Lemon supplies, short during late summer and early fall -- about 4 million boxes available after June 1 compared with 7 million last year.

DECIDUOUS FRUIT PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

Total tonnage of deciduous fruit is now indicated one-eighth above last year, one-tenth above average... Average crops of apples and apricots; a tenth below for prunes; about a tenth above for peaches, pears, and grapes; and a fourth above average for cherries and plums. Plentiful supplies this summer of sweet cherries, plums, Barlett pears and apples.

FAVORABLE PROSPECTS FOR NUT CROPS

Prospects are good for walnuts, almonds, pecans, and filberts.

APPLE CROP AVERAGE OR BETTER

U. S. apple crop is expected to be average or better than average. Low production of Baldwins, Yorks; good crops of Delicious and McIntosh among early season apples.

PEAR CROP UP FROM LAST YEAR

The pear crop, estimated at 33.7 million bushels, will be up from last year about 28 percent, and about 9 percent above average. 81 percent of total -- or 27.2 million bushels -- is expected to come from the Pacific Coast.

PEACH CROP BETTER THAN LAST YEAR

The U. S. peach crop is estimated at 77.1 million bushels -- 18 percent more than '48 but 6 percent below two years ago and 11 percent below the record crop of '46. Prospects in the 10 Southern States are now indicated at 14.3 million bushels, up 2 percent from last year but only about four-fifths of average. In the Northeastern States, season is about a week earlier than last year.

FATS AND OILS EXPORTS HIGH OUTPUT UP FROM LAST YEAR

Exports of fats and oils have been running at a higher annual rate this year than in any previous year, including wartime peak in '44. Exports of fats, oils, and oil equivalent of oilseeds first 3 months of '49 totaled 516 million pounds, up 76 percent from the 294 million pounds shipped out a year earlier. (Shipments to U. S. territories included.) Production of animal fats continues well above output a year ago. Edible vegetable oils produced first 3 months of this year totaled nearly 1.1 billion pounds compared with less than 1 billion pounds in same period last year.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	April 15 1949	May 15 1949	May 15 1949
Wheat, bu.dol.	2.00	2.00	2.17
Corn, bu.dol.	1.22	1.22	1.57
Peanuts, lb. ct.	10.6	10.6	11.8
Cotton, lb. ct.	29.91	29.97	30.38
Potatoes, bu.dol.	1.81	1.81	1.80
Hogs, 100 lb.dol.	18.60	17.90	17.80
Beef cattle, 100 lb.dol.	20.80	20.90	13.30
Veal calves, 100 lb.dol.	24.90	23.80	16.50
Lambs, 100 lb.dol.	25.80	25.30	14.40
Butterfat, lb. ct.	1/62.0	1/64.0	64.4
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb.dol.	2/ 3.99	1/ 4.00	3.92
Chickens, live, lb. ct.	31.0	28.2	27.9
Eggs, doz. ct.	42.3	43.4	52.7

1/ Seasonally adjusted.

2/ Revised.

FEWER EGGS PRODUCED IN MAY BUT TOTAL FIRST 5 MONTHS IS UP FROM YEAR AGO

Eggs per layer in May equaled the record set a year earlier. But fewer layers brought total production down 2 percent from a year earlier. Total in May was 5,845 million eggs compared with 5,969 million in May '48, and 5,716 million 10-year average for May. Production first 5 months totaled 27.5 billion eggs compared with 27.3 billion same period in '48, and 25 billion average.

P POULTRY FEEDING FAVORABLE

Egg-feed, chicken-feed and turkey-feed price relationships are much more favorable than a year ago. Mid-May poultry feed cost \$3.51, hundred pounds; \$4.64 a year ago.

EGG PRICES UP; CHICKENS, TURKEYS DOWN

Farmers prices for eggs in May averaged 43.4 cents a dozen, highest for the month in 41 years; year ago, 41.5 cents; '38-47 average 26.3 cents. Chickens in May averaged 28.2 cents, down from 31 cents in April, but close to year-ago prices. Liveweight turkeys in May averaged 36.9 cents pound compared with 37.3 cents year earlier; price in April was 42.6 cents.

MILK PRODUCTION UP FROM LAST YEAR

Milk produced in May totaled about 11.9 billion pounds -- up 2 percent from May '48 and from the 10-year May average. Milk per cow continued at a record rate. Milk first 5 months of this year totaled about 48.6 billion pounds; same period last year 47.2 billion, 10-year average 47.4 billion.

CROP OUTLOOK GOOD FOR EARLY POTATOES

Condition of early potatoes unusually good ... better than last year, much better than average ... about the same as the record-high of June '46. Winter and spring crops about all harvested in the area from Texas to South Carolina. Heavy movement through June from the California and North Carolina crops, and from other late spring areas. Virginia and New Jersey, among the summer areas, also have large crops.

TOBACCO TAXES TOTAL MORE THAN GROWERS' RECEIPTS

Taxes from tobacco--Federal and State--in the '49 fiscal year are estimated at over 1.7 billion dollars, largest tax ever collected. Growers' cash receipts from tobacco, same fiscal year, will total a little less than 1 billion dollars (\$985 million estimate). This would be a near record return to growers from tobacco, second only to fiscal '47.

MEAT PRODUCED DOWN 11 PERCENT FROM MARCH OUTPUT FIRST 4 MONTHS, UP FROM YEAR AGO

Commercial meat produced in the U. S. in April totaled nearly 1.5 million pounds, 11 percent drop from March but down only 1 percent from the April total a year ago. Production first 4 months was 1 percent more than for same period last year...beef and pork, each up 2 percent; veal, down 8 percent; lamb and mutton, down 19 percent. In the 4-month period, number of hogs slaughtered was up from year ago by 5 percent; number of other animals slaughtered, down--cattle, down 4 percent; calves, down 10 percent; and sheep and lambs, down 19 percent.

4.8 MILLION HOGS SLAUGHTERED IN APRIL

The April slaughter of nearly 4.8 million hogs was down 11 percent from March but was up 6 percent from April '48. Hogs were lighter than in March also lighter than a year earlier. Total poundage in April (641 million) was 12 percent below March and up only 1 percent from April a year ago. ("Livestock Slaughter By States" was issued by 8AE June 3.)

DOMESTIC DEMAND EASING; FOREIGN DEMAND STRONG

Demand for farm products has continued fairly stable in recent months, after declining to a lower level than last year, and no sharp reductions are expected. However, trends in industrial output and consumer purchasing power indicate some further weakening--especially in domestic demand. Foreign demand remains strong. Agricultural exports, first quarter of '49, highest since first half of '47.

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT DOWN FROM HIGH PEAK

April production in all industries, except automobiles and manufactured food products, was below postwar peaks.

FIRST QUARTER INCOME AND SPENDINGS DOWN

Disposal income of consumers, first quarter of this year, was down 1.6 billion dollars below the annual rate as shown for the last quarter of '48. Consumers' spendings were down more than their incomes. Spendings declined to annual rate of 176.6 billion dollars, 4.4 billion lower than in the preceding quarter.

NUMBER EMPLOYED SAME AS YEAR AGO JOBLESS TOTAL HAS INCREASED A LITTLE

Civilian employment in May totaled 58.7 million, up nearly a million from the 57.8 million recorded in April. Total in May last year was 58.7 million, same as now. But the working force is more than a million larger than a year ago. And unemployed in May had increased to 3.3 million. In April only 3 million were without work.

HIRED FARM LABOR UP FROM YEAR AGO

More hired laborers worked on farms last of May than a year earlier, but the number of farm family workers was less. Total agricultural employment was 12 million compared with 12.3 million a year ago. Farm family labor in May totaled 9,522 thousand and hired labor 2,549 thousand. These figures compare with 9,833 thousand and 2,493 thousand, respectively, in May a year ago.

LITTLE CHANGE IN FARM WAGES

Farm wage rates are about the same as a year ago: per month, with board and room \$97 compared with \$96 year ago; per month, with house, \$115 compared with \$115 year ago; per week, with board and room, \$23.50 compared with \$24 year ago. Per week, without board or room, \$30.25, same as year ago; per day, with board and room, \$3.95 compared with \$3.85 year ago; per day, without board or room, \$4.25 compared with \$4.15 year ago (April figures).

CASH RECEIPTS DOWN A LITTLE

Farmers' receipts from marketings first 5 months this year--9.8 billion dollars--were a little less than for the same period last year, chiefly because of lower prices of meat animals and dairy products. But people ate less meat...consumption of meat, first 3 months, was down about a half pound per person.

PRICES RECEIVED DOWN 16 PERCENT FROM HIGH WHILE PRICES PAID DROP ONLY ABOUT 2 PERCENT

Prices received by farmers in May were down 1½ percent from April, and down 17 percent from the record high reached early last year. Prices paid by farmers were down less than 1/2 of one percent from the month before, and were down only about 2 percent from the record high of last August.

Farmers averaged lower prices in May for meat animals, dairy products, and truck crops. Clothing, building material and furniture prices were down, but production items averaged about same as the month before.

Farm supplies cost farmers about 5 percent more than a year ago. Cultivating implements, haying machinery, and combines also are higher. Building materials declined for the sixth consecutive month...down 6 percent since last November.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	May 1949
Prices received by farmers	1910-14= 100	256
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14= 100	245
Parity ratio	1910-14= 100	104
Wholesale prices of food	1910-14= 100	253
Retail prices of food	1910-14= 100	1/ 262
Farm wage rates	1910-14= 100	2/ 408
Weekly factory earnings	1910-14= 100	3/ 472
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS		Jan. - May 1948 Jan. - May 1949
Milk, (Bil. lb.)	47.2	48.6
Eggs, (Bil.)	27.3	27.5
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.):	4/ 2,118	4/ 2,291
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.):	4/ 219	4/ 177
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.)	4/ 3,031	4/ 3,807
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.):	4/ 5,580	4/ 6,037

* Federally inspected only.

4/ January - April.

1/ April figure.

2/ April figure. Unadjusted for seasonal variation.

3/ April figure. Factory payroll per employed worker.